



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 11/4/2010

Capital Planning Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 November 4, 2010

In attendance were:

Steve Andrew
 Adam Chapdelaine
 John FitzMaurice
 Charles Foscett, Chairman*
 Steve Gilligan
 Diane Johnson
 Ruth Lewis
 Anthony Lionetta
 Barbara Thornton

* Denotes those not in attendance

1. Meeting Opened: Vice Chair Steve Gilligan called the meeting to order in Charlie Foscett's absence. Adam Chapdelaine provided packets of information to CPC members. The packets included an Agenda, Meeting Memorandum of CPC's 10/14/2010 meeting, Memo's from Parks and Recreation and from the TAC relative to the proposed Thompson Land Swap, STM Warrant, Sub-Committee Memorandums on Police Department and Town Manager requests, a request from the Library, and draft Statements on SPED requirements and Thompson Land Swap issues. The memorandum of the October 14 meeting was reviewed and approved.

2. Thompson School STM Presentation: Jeff Thielman, Sheri Donovan (representing the School Department) and Kevin Nigro (from PMA) were in attendance to go over the planned TSBC presentation to the STM on Article 3. This Article is for an initial (contingent) land swap approval related to the Thompson School project. Hard copies of the power point presentation were provided to the CPC. Jeff Thielman carefully went through the each slide. He stressed that the MSBA requires the submittal of three alternatives as part of the Feasibility Study Phase. These alternatives need to be developed in good faith. It is the feeling that for the in-field Alternative to be considered a good faith alternative, it at least has to be presented for a Town Meeting vote on the required land swap. Upon completion, Sheri Donovan made a statement concerning the need for SPED improvements given the condition of the current facilities at the High School. There is a concern over continued accreditation of the SPED program.

3. CPC Questions/Discussion: There were initial concerns by some CPC members about the purpose of the hearing/presentation on Thompson and whether the CPC should be weighing in on a non-\$\$\$ article. After some discussion, CPC members took turns asking questions about the land swap, as well as the overall project. School Representatives responded to CPC member questions and comments. A sampling of questions / responses are as follows:

a. Relative to SPED Program, the question was raised as to whether the School Department had thought out concept of bringing the remaining Out-of-District students into the District. These students may be more medically fragile than the current SPED program students, now in district. There is concern over providing proper care AND whether the APS can effectively bill all 3rd party payers and can they run a program that meets the eligibility standards for 3rd party payer funding in order to control and limit the costs to the Town. Answer: The School Department is to review this internally and respond at a later date.

b. There was a concern over the student population of 380. Can it be more? Answer: 380 was arrived at through tough

negotiations with MSBA and it the maximum they will contribute too.

c. With reference to the "read" of Article 3, why is the demo and construction of the new park left to Park and Recreation?
Answer: The Town Solicitor has determined that this is the way it should read.

d. Can the taking in of out-of-District METCO students be suspended to make more room for the temporary housing of Thompson School students? Answer: no without affecting the METCO program.

e. The additional cost of building on the field will impact the Town's borrowing capacity and add to the cost of borrowing.

f. The Land Swap will require several Town Meeting votes, as well as votes by the Parks and Recreation and the Conservation Commission as well as the State Legislature.

g. Site costs for Alternative 3 were questioned as being too low compared to the site costs for Alternative 1. PMA stated that it has already requested the Estimator to review this and provide more detail.

h. The overall suitability of the in-field site was questioned. (topo, commercial abutters, closeness to Broadway) Also, noted were memos from the Park and Recreation and the TAC stating concerns relative to Alternative 3.

i. What happens if the Day Care, SPED and Central Kitchen do not get \$ support from the MSBA. Do they get dropped? Does the Town decide to pay for them at 100%? If so, maybe there is a better place to put them.

4. Vote: After several motions, the CPC took a vote on Article 3. The vote was for "no action" and was unanimous vote by those in attendance. (Diane Johnson, Steve Andrew and Charlie Foskett not present)

5. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2010 at 5PM.

6. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.